

Dover[?], July 20th

1855

My Dear Aurelia,

Hardly a day has passed by without my thoughts have turned towards you, and ever since I received your last epistola each day have I resolved to answer – and so often neglected it. Oh! Rill I'd just like to peek into your home today, a cold, chilly rain is visiting us, and I wonder if you are thus favored.

One week ago yesterday Mrs Dr Brooks and myself started for Eden Erie [?? ??] to see Miss Warren and “her girls” who came to school from there two years ago this summer. Their names were Julia Ryther, Mary Huntington and Carrie Chapin – lovely girls those! And what a delightful visit I had!! We came home Tuesday. Oh! How discontented it makes me. I love Ellington but I cannot stay here all my lifetime. I wish to go away to school. I am very anxious to go to Oberlin this fall. I have heard[?] some but I fear all to no purpose. Do write me Rill all you know about the school.

Mother dislikes to have me go among entire strangers but I would not care if I could only go. I almost imagine that I should be perfectly happy could I go and I think a little homesickness would dome good. Oh! I'm half wild with the idea but yet I know I can't at least this fall. Oh! When shall I? Do you know whether it is sickly there (Oberlin) now or not?

I am taking music lessons but not making very much headway I fancy. Miss Tiffany of Jamestown teaches – give 24 lessons for 8 dollars.

I want to see you Rill but am afraid it will be a long, long time before I can

Miss Warren is coming to E. in a few weeks to visit. I'm so glad. If you can overlook this miserable scrawl – do – much obliged friend. Mary B.

[NOTE: More hard-to-read writing around the margins]

I have written in great haste, as you can plainly see. Has Di been to see you yet. Jule rec[eived] a letter from her when I was gone – wish she'd write to this “poor nigger.” Lovina says she is going to write you but I don't know when. Now Rill do write soon tell me about Oberlin. How far do you live from there. How far is it from Akron and everything you ever heard about it. Once more the wish comes up to see you to look upon your dear face – remember me to your husband

Your afft. [?] M.A.B.